

INTELLOFAX 21

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COUNTRY: Western Germany

~~SECURITY INFORMATION~~

SUBJECT: Availability of Building Materials/Obsolete Building Practices

25X1A2g

PLACE ACQUIRED:

DATE ACQUIRED :

25X1X7

DATE OF INFO : May - June 1953

SOURCE :

25X1X6

1. The institute is housed in two buildings of 160,000 sq. ft. floor space. Both are steel frame construction, one with concrete walls and the other brick.
2. Building materials were easily obtainable. The steel, 650 tons, was ordered in July 1952 and was erected by the end of the year. The quality of materials was good but often not finished to the same degree as U.S. products. Bricks were irregular, probably due to the custom of plastering walls.
3. Workmen were skillful but their hand tools were many years out-of-date. Carpenters were using buck saws instead of power equipment.
4. Building methods were less than efficient. It was difficult to persuade the contractor that the brick walls did not require a plaster surface. It was next to impossible to get them to pour finished concrete slabs. In erecting the building, the contractor gave no thought to the plumber and electrician and caused them much unnecessary work.
5. Building materials and laboratory equipment used were seldom in retailers' stocks. The only reason I could discern was a lack of capital. An inquiry for an item usually sent the retailer hurrying off to a wholesaler's warehouse for articles wanted.
6. Except for a very few pieces of laboratory equipment, everything needed was obtained in Western Germany.

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